

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 SCI-06 DRC-01

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R 231656Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5215

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT TO BONN--MORE ON BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 14873

(B) BONN 14709

SUMMARY: FRG FONOFF DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR KLAUS BLECH BRIEFED ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS ON SEPTEMBER 20 ON BERLIN ASPECTS OF GROMYKO VISIT TO BONN. BLECH SAID THE DISCUSSIONS HAD TO BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF GROMYKO GETTING TO KNOW GENSCHER AND THAT FRG HAD-NO GREAT EXPECTATIONS AS FAR AS BERLIN ISSUES WERE CONCERNED. THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL TALKS REGARDING BERLIN TO BE CARRIED OUT IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, PRESUMABLY IN BONN WHERE TOKHOVININ, NEW SOVIET DCM, WILL BE SOVIET INTERLOCUTOR. THESE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO SCHMIDT-GENSCHER VISIT TO MOSCOW AT END OF OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

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1. GENERAL. THE FON MINISTERS HAD TWO SEPARATE SESSIONS ON BERLIN MATTERS, WITH A DISCUSSION BY EXPERTS IN BETWEEN. GENSCHER RAISED BERLIN AS MATTER CAUSING GREAT PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND EMPHASIZED CONNECTION BETWEEN BERLIN SITUATION AND DETENTE. FRG NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION BUT SOUGHT PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS AND WOULD BE GUIDED NOT ONLY BY LEGALITY OF ANY MOVES BUT ALSO BY POLITICAL ASPECTS. FRG BASICALLY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING SITUATION IN AND FOR BERLIN AND IN ASSURING CITY'S VIABILITY. TIES MUST BE DEVELOPED, BUT THEY NOT A QUESTION OF FRG GOVERNING BERLIN. GENSCHER ALSO EMPHASIZED FRG DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RE ITS BERLIN POLICY. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS TALKED WITH FRG ON BERLIN ONLY IN SENSE THAT THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS JUSTIFY POLITICAL DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT. QA IS COMPLETE, WITH NOTHING TO ADD OR DELETE, AND TIES COULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH DO NOT VIOLATE IT. FEA WAS FALSE MOVE WHICH SOVIETS WILL NOT CLOSE EYES ON. THE AGENCY WAS A STATE BODY AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO USEFUL WORK IN BERLIN. IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT THAT THREE POWERS HAD AGREED TO FEA; QA WAS FOUR POWER AGREEMENT. GROMYKO SAID THERE WERE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN BERLIN WHICH NEEDED SOVIET AND FRG ATTENTION. GENSCHER RESPONDED THAT BERLIN REALLY IS BAROMETER OF DETENTE FOR FRG.

2. BERLIN AIR. GENSCHER MENTIONED ONLY THAT TYING WEST BERLIN INTO INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC NET WAS VERY IMPORTANT NONTEXT OF IMPROVING CITY'S VIABILITY. GROMYKO MADE NO RESPONSE.

3. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. AT FIRST SESSION, GROMYKO TOOK POSITION THAT LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS A QUESTION OF "STATUS," BUT AGREED THAT IT BE DISCUSSED BY GROUP OF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15033

EXPERTS PRIOR TO SECOND SESSION WITH GENSCHER. IN
EXPERTS GROUP, SOVIETS TOOK VERY HARD LINE, EMPHASIZING
THAT THIS A STATUS QUESTION, AND REBUFFING FRG PRAGMATIC
PROPOSAL WHEREBY THERE WOULD BE A FRG-USSR AGREEMENT
WITH SEPARATE UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY FRG ON APPLICABI-
LITY TO BERLIN. IN SECOND FONMIN SESSION,
GROMYKO MAINTAINED TOUGH POSITION AND SUMMARIZED BY
SAYING SOVIET CONCESSIONS WERE ALREADY LARGE. HE DID
AGREE THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE ON AGENDA FOR SCHMIDT'S
VISIT.

4. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT. GENSCHER
PRESSED FOR FULL INCLUSION BERLIN OFFICES, NOTING
ALLIED AUTHORIZATION TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF
WEST BERLIN, AND ALSO EMPHASIZING FRG DOMESTIC CONSI-
DERATIONS. NO PROGRESS MADE IN EXPERT TALKS. IN
SECOND SESSION WITH GENSCHER, GROMYKO SUGGESTED THAT
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FRG NOT INTERESTED IN AN AGREEMENT ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AND INDICATED FRG SHOULD THINK MATTER OVER.
(COMMENT: EXCEPT RE BERLIN, AGREEMENT WOULD BE MUCH MORE
IN INTEREST OF USSR. END COMMENT.) AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE ON AGENDA FOR MOSCOW
TRIP.

5. SUMMARY. BLECH SAID GROMYKO RETAINED MODERATE
DEMEANOR THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS, EVEN WHEN PRESSED BY
GENSCHER. THE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN TOUGH, BUT NOT
POLEMICAL AND NOT UNFRIENDLY. GERMANS ARE NOT, HOWEVER,
VERY OPTIMISTIC. COMMENT: TONE OF BLECH'S REPORT

(HE READ FROM FONOFF ACCOUNT OF SESSIONS, AND HE PARTICIPATED IN THEM) TENDS TO CONFIRM EARLIER REPORT (REFTEL A) THAT GENSCHER PERHAPS PLAYED TOO MUCH FOR GROMYKO'S TASTE THE HARD-HITTING AND HARD-HEADED DEFENDER OF BERLIN INTERESTS.
HILLENBRAND

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